

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Nolensville School  
other names/site number Nolensville Recreation Center

### 2. Location

street & number 7248 Nolensville Road NA ☐ not for publication  
city or town Nolensville NA ☐ vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Williamson code 187 zip code 37135

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain:) _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Nolensville School  
Name of Property

Williamson County Tennessee  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

0

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0

Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

NOT IN USE

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: modified Rosenwald school

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD, GLASS

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

### Period of Significance

1937- 1962

### Significant Dates

1937, 1948

### Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

### Cultural Affiliation

NA

### Architect/Builder

Potts, H.J. and Hughes, Harvell (builders)

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County

Nolensville School  
Name of Property

Williamson County Tennessee  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than 4 acres 70 NW Nolensville

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 529540 3979534  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sharon Zieman, Chuck Zieman, Remick Moore, Bob Haines  
organization Nolensville Historical Society date July 2011  
street & number 1018 Tulloss Road telephone 615/771-2813  
city or town Franklin state TN zip code 37067

### Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Williamson County, c/o Rogers Anderson, County mayor  
street & number 1320 W. Main Street, Suite 125 telephone 615/790-5700  
city or town Franklin state TN zip code 37064

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Williamson County Tennessee

## DESCRIPTION

The Nolensville School was built in 1937 with a modified Rosenwald School plan and a gymnasium was added in 1948. The one story frame school is sheathed in brick, has an asphalt shingle roof, concrete block foundation, and multi-light windows. Windows are covered by wood and/or vinyl siding on the exterior and covered on the interior with plywood for protection. Inside, the school retains its wood walls, ceilings, and floors; historic black boards; and paneled wood doors. The gymnasium is concrete block construction sheathed in brick. Inside finishes are concrete block and wood. Located twenty miles south of Nashville in the community of Nolensville, the school is surrounded by stores and restaurants to the north, baseball fields and single family homes to the east, a school and church to the south, and Nolensville Road and farm fields to the west. The building has been modified over the years; however, it retains its historic integrity.

The School was built using modification number 1 of Rosenwald plan number 30, as a four room, three teacher school. (See Figure 1 and Figure 3.) The building was completed in 1937 by builders H.J. Potts and Harvell Hughes of Franklin, Tennessee and it stood alone on the original five acre site. The property the school was built on, as described in the 1932 State of Tennessee Road Construction Maps, was cultivated land. Land to the west, north, and east was used for farming crops, dairy cattle, and livestock. One third of a mile south on Main Street (later to become Nolensville Road) were homes and the town's businesses. Although the site may have followed guidelines from the Rosenwald Foundation for setting and landscaping, today it is surrounded by parking lots and ball fields.

Facing west, the façade of the 1937 school is characterized by a central pedimented portico with a gable field of vinyl siding. The recessed entry is covered with vinyl siding and the door is blocked by a large panel of plywood. Flanking the main entry are banks of five nine-over-nine double-hung windows, now covered with vinyl siding and plywood. Concrete stairs with a metal railing and concrete landing lead to the entry. Access is also available via a concrete ramp and handrail running along the facade from south to north.

In 1948 the brick gymnasium was added to the north of the original building. The transition was completed with a hallway running east and west for access between the buildings. Concrete stairs with a metal railing lead to the single leaf door of the corridor. A shed roof covers this area. Visible on the west façade of the gymnasium are two single leaf entries with concrete steps, metal windows (some covered over), and a gable roof clerestory covered with vinyl siding.

The north elevation of the Nolensville School has a one story hip roof surmounted by the clerestory. Wood siding on the clerestory section is visible behind the modern siding. Two covered metal windows flank a modern double-leaf entry. The wall surrounding the entry has concrete block infill. A low flat roof and gable extension of concrete block extends east of the main elevation. In 1968 an addition was made to the east side of the building on the north end. This block addition was used for the boiler room and later as a storage area for the baseball field maintenance equipment.

The most visible parts of the north section of the rear or east elevation are the one story, shed and flat roof concrete block extensions of the gymnasium. As on the other sections of the gymnasium, the metal windows

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are covered. The brick wall and clerestory of the gymnasium are also visible on this elevation. South of the gymnasium is the 1937 school's east elevation. The same bank of five windows, covered over, that is on the façade is seen on this elevation.

A recessed entry, with single leaf doors, covered over, leading to separate classrooms, is centered on the south elevation. Smaller multi-light windows, now covered over, flank the entry. Concrete steps with metal railing lead to entry.

The interior of the school, accessed through the west entry, is axial and leads into a foyer connected to four class rooms and a hallway that leads to the gymnasium. A modern single-leaf door is surrounded by a glass transom and glass and wood sidelights. Horizontal bead board siding covers the top portion of the walls and a vertical board wainscoting with a molded chair rail covers the lower part. Ceilings are bead board and floors oiled oak. Doors leading into classrooms are wood with five panels. The south end of the 1937 school has two separate classrooms (room A and D, see sketch plan) that have separate exits at the south elevation. Chalk boards and multi-light windows are visible in classrooms. Ceiling lights are modern, fluorescent lights. These same materials are found throughout the school.

The two classrooms on the east side (rooms C and D) can be fully opened to each other creating one large room. The rooms are separated by moveable paneled wood partition doors. Part of room D is divided by a solid railing of bead board. The two classrooms on the north side of the school (rooms B and C) are completely separated by the hallway that connects the school to the gymnasium corridor. Room E, which is in the southwest corner of room A, has had various uses over the years, including storage, library, and office space. It has the same finishes as the other rooms, except the floor is tile.

The Army Air Force Classification Center (as it was known in 1942 and in 1945 became the Separation Center for the U.S. Navy) on Thompson Lane in Nashville was dismantled and the wood from it was used to frame the 1948 gymnasium. A narrow enclosed corridor separates the school and gymnasium. The brick of the north elevation of the school is seen in the corridor. The gymnasium and connecting corridor are at a different finish floor level than that of the school, with the corridor acting as a ramp to mitigate this change. A brick veneer was added to the concrete block construction of the gymnasium so that it would match the original school building. The gymnasium served the school as a multifunctional room. A cafeteria along with a stage, restrooms, and dressing rooms were added during the 1948 construction. The cafeteria is of concrete block construction and of no significant architectural value; however, it is a functional space and the construction is intact.

Historic wood bleachers and floors remain in the gymnasium. The clerestory windows are extant, but covered over. The gymnasium is a large flexible space that has a stage that is approximately 23' x 18' facing the basketball court floor. The original gymnasium floors appear to be intact; however, they need to be replaced due to water damage. The concrete block walls are painted white and the soffits appear to be painted plaster. The three large windows that face the east are currently boarded over.

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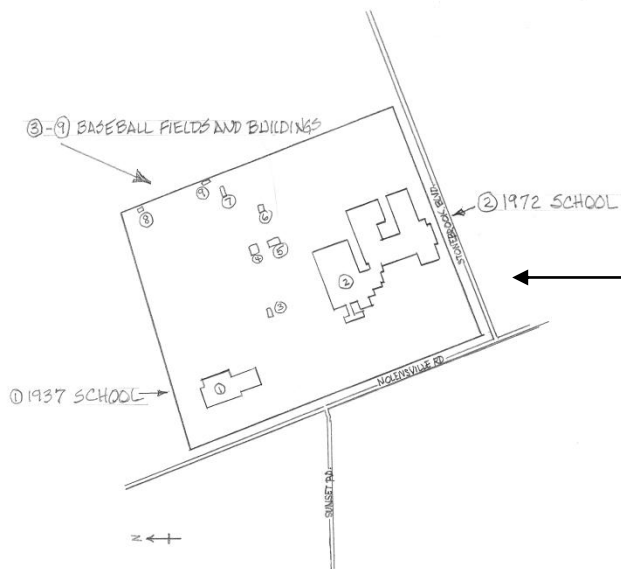
The north part of the gymnasium was where ticket and concession sales were located historically. Storage/dressing rooms flank this area. The east portion of the gymnasium contains the cafeteria, kitchen, and boiler room. These supporting rooms have concrete block walls that have been painted, vinyl composite tile or concrete floors, and acoustical drop-ceiling.

The school building and gymnasium are in good condition and were in use until recently. Both need repairs and upgrades to the electrical and plumbing systems, the floor support structure, and paint and exterior siding replacement.

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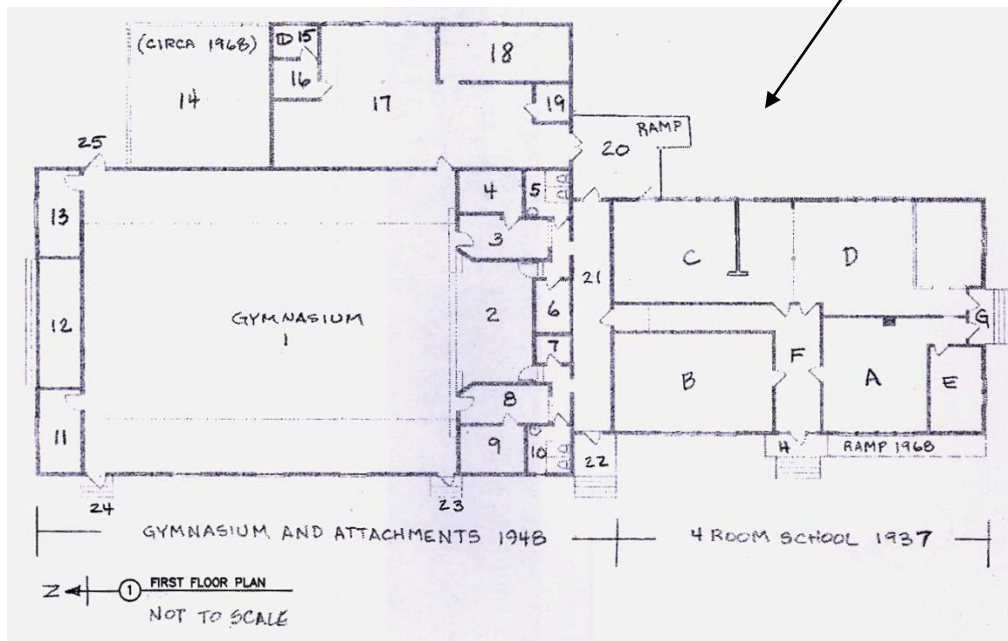
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1937 school in  
relationship to  
new school and  
fields on parcel.

1937 -1948 school  
showing room  
use.





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Room Identification

**Original School Building**

<u>Room</u>	<u>Description</u>
A	“Principal’s Room” Principal taught grades seven through ten here
B	First and second grades
C	Third and fourth grades
D	Fifth and Sixth grades
E	Multiple uses over the years -Library, Storage, Lunch Preparation, School Secretary Office
F	Entrance Hall
G	South Entrance
H	West Entrance and Ramp

**Gymnasium**

1	Gymnasium open floor area
2	Stage
3	Hallway
4	Male Dressing Room
5	Male Toilets
6	Storage
7	Electrical Equipment
8	Hallway
9	Female Dressing Room
10	Female Toilets
11	Female Dressing Room Storage
12	Original Entrance, ticket sales, concessions
13	Male Dressing room
14	Original Boiler Room Baseball Field Storage
15	Physically Challenged Toilet
16	Janitor Closet
17	Cafeteria
18	Kitchen
19	Sink
20	Ramp and Platform
21, 22, 23	Two West Entrances and One east Entrance to Gymnasium

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nolensville School is eligible for listing in the National Register under criterion A for its local significance in education and social history. Since construction, the 1937 school and attached 1948 gymnasium have served as the educational and social center of the rural Nolensville community. The school was the community's first modern educational building and was erected using one of the most accepted, modern, and well-known educational plans, that of the Rosenwald Fund. Available from the state's Department of Education, Nolensville adapted Floor Plan No. 30 to its own needs. Even before the school was built, the Nolensville community worked to secure the property and funding for a local school. Once the school opened it was used for community events throughout its history. The Nolensville School is, to date, the only well-documented example in Tennessee of a white school that used a Rosenwald plan.

Nolensville School is located in the northeastern portion of Williamson County, in the community of Nolensville (2010 population 5,861). William Nolan purchased a portion of a land grant from Jason Thompson.<sup>1</sup> In 1818 he set up a plan for the Town of Nolensville and marked this land off in several lots that helped establish the town. Nolensville was incorporated in 1839, was occupied during the Civil War, had a fire downtown in the 1950s, and was re-incorporated in 1996. Small rural schools were either in or near Nolensville since its incorporation, some as private academies. By the 1890s there was a brick school in town. This school building was lost to fire around 1901-1903 and a new school rebuilt as a frame building. The frame building was the main school in the area until the nominated property was begun in 1937.<sup>2</sup>

Nolensville School was first conceived in the early 1930s by the members of the community and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) out of concern for their students aging wooden school's deterioration and the possible consolidation of smaller nearby one room school houses. Williamson County officials were approached with the idea for a new school located in town. The county turned down the request for financial reasons, as it was during the Great Depression. Williamson County eventually worked out an agreement with the PTA and families of students. They told the people of Nolensville that if they bought the property the county would build the school.<sup>3</sup> The community quickly organized and held the first successful Nolensville Horse Show sponsored by the PTA on June 30<sup>th</sup> 1934. Admission was ten cents and offered homemade food for purchase. Additional successful horse shows and fundraisers would follow, including the Nolensville Third Annual Horse Show which proudly announced that the location of event was to be at the new school grounds and that refreshments sold would benefit the school. (See Figure 2.) The Nolensville Horse Show became a community tradition for many years at the school property, although sponsorship changed.

On November 14, 1935, PTA Trustees Annis Ozburn, Miss Ruth Williams, Mrs. Eva Gooch, Miss Elsie Puckett, and Miss Pauline McArthur<sup>4</sup> brought the money that was raised, \$ 744.73 of the needed \$1,000.00 for the purchase of five acres from the Brittain family. The deed was signed by PTA Trustees and county officials of Williamson County, who would contribute the remaining \$255.27 and who agreed, as stated in

<sup>1</sup> Rick Warwick, *Historical Markers of Williamson County Tennessee*. Franklin, TN: Heritage Foundation of Franklin/Williamson County, 2010, 41.

<sup>2</sup> "Nolensville Area Schools" in *Nolensville Historical Society Journal Number 4*. Nolensville TN: Nolensville Historical Society, 2008, 85-86.

<sup>3</sup> Peggy Stephenson Wilson, *Nolensville 1797-1987 Nolensville, TN Nolensville Recreation Center Inc.* 1989, 74

<sup>4</sup> Deed Book 67. Page 318, Williamson County Archives, Franklin Tennessee

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deed, to build the school on this land within three years of that date or the funds would be returned to the PTA.

*The Review Appeal* newspaper article on August 8, 1937 stated the cost of school building was "\$5,100" and the Williamson County Board of Education awarded the contract for the erection of a four room Rosenwald Fund School building to H.J. Potts and Harville Hughes of Franklin Tennessee.<sup>5</sup> Although it is not a true Rosenwald Fund School, a letter sent to Williamson County Superintendent of Schools Mr. Fred J. Page by the State of Tennessee Division of Schoolhouse Planning Director O. P. Pitts mentions the use of Modification No. 1 of Rosenwald Plan No. 30 was used for the construction of Nolensville School. Pitts' letter mentions he stopped to inspect the school and was pleased at the use of plans and approved of the modifications to accommodate local needs. (See Figure 3.)

Julius Rosenwald, of Sears, Roebuck and Company, started the Rosenwald Fund around 1912 to provide start up funding for African American schools in the South. There were standardized plans for various size schools, standards for building, and standards for what was necessary for an up-to-date school. Both Fisk University and the Tuskegee Institute had major roles in the program, which ended in 1932. Even after the Rosenwald Fund ceased to exist, the plans were available for use. During this time Nashville based community school offices gave away design pamphlets and blueprints to state departments of education and local school boards "The ready availability of Rosenwald school plans also encouraged their use for white school buildings."<sup>6</sup> Rosenwald school plans were seen as an improved, low cost model of modern design for rural school houses.

The Nolensville School was built facing west on the east side of Nolensville Road, with two large banks of five windows that provided plenty of natural lighting and healthy ventilation, a characteristic of the Rosenwald Community School Plans. The two east side classrooms are separated by folding doors, which upon opening, allowed for school assemblies and was also used by the Nolensville community as a social center. This fulfilled one of the purposes of Rosenwald Community School designs. In keeping with the Rosenwald standards for classrooms director Pitts mentions "one serious fault," with the Nolensville School - the blackboards were placed too high and he asked for the lower edge of the blackboards to be no higher than twenty-two to twenty-eight inches from floors. He also mentions his interest of future improvements and beautification to the grounds of the campus.<sup>7</sup> Local store owners J.B. Ozburn and B. O. Williams provided some building materials for the school, as well as its maintenance, by supplying brooms mops and buckets to keep classrooms tidy.

Classes began on August 30, 1937 under a large tent rented from Nashville Tent and Awning for one month at a fee of \$ 40.00. New principal William Powers arrived from Denver, Tennessee to find that the construction of the school had been delayed because materials had not been delivered. For four to six weeks, students used orange crates for seating under the tent while the new red brick school building was being

<sup>5</sup> "Nolensville School Bldg. To Cost Sum of \$5,150." *The Review Appeal*. August 5, 1937.

<sup>6</sup> Mary S. Hoffschwelle, *The Rosenwald Schools of the American South*. Gainesville, FL.: University Press of Florida, 2006, 114.

<sup>7</sup> G.P. Pitts, "Nolensville School Inspection" Letter to Fred J. Page Oct. 7, 1937 Williamson County Archives Nolensville School Collection

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completed. Four teachers and eighty-five students used the tent-school. The estimated cost of the school was now \$12,000. (See Figure 4 and Figure 5.)

Mr. Dudley Wood was listed as principal at the end of the 1938 school year earning a salary of \$ 57.50 a month. Miss Pauline McArthur taught first grade; Bertha Powers and Miss Callie Lillie Owen were also listed as teachers for the new school. The school was certified to teach grades one through eight. For the first two years the school was allowed to teach several students in grades nine and ten although it was not certified. Mr. Wood completed the "Record of Promotion and Retardation" for the school and reported that there were forty-three boys, thirty-five girls, and that the average daily attendance was 66.27 students. (See figure 6.)<sup>8</sup>

School Registry forms at that time required student information such as the number of miles they lived from school and the parents' occupation. Most families were listed as farmers or nearby town merchants. One of these families was former student and local dairy farmer William Ozburn, son of PTA Trustee Annis Ozburn who started school in 1937 as a first grade student. His wife Carrie Stephenson Ozburn started as a student in 1940. She later became the first and only school secretary/bookkeeper at that Nolensville School location from 1965-1972. She continued at that position at the replacement school until 1996.

Nolensville continued to be a strong agricultural based community with the emphasis on dairy farming. It was home town to the Nolensville Creamery Co-op that served hundreds of Williamson County dairy farmers and received international awards for its butter. They also supplied butter to the World War II war efforts. The Community Club families wanted to encourage all students in agricultural methods and careers in addition to their school 4-H instruction meetings, by sponsoring the first Nolensville School Jr. 4 H Fair in 1944. Children proudly presented their canning, baking, sewing projects inside the school building. All livestock and Jersey dairy classes used the school's large playgrounds. This event continued at the school location for fifty years. Live stock 4H participants received sacks of grain donated by the local town feed mill.

Former students shared a memory of the boys taking turns bringing in coal that was provided by Mr. Jamison a contracted supplier, for the two stoves used for heating class rooms. The girls took turns cleaning the classrooms. A cookie or other treat was given to students for jobs well done. They also recalled two new outside privies one for girls and one for boys that served as restrooms. During heavy rains the younger ones were lifted by older students and carried safely to the privies

In the early Nolensville School years, older children ate their lunch, brought from home, at their new wood No.1 Wabash double opening desks that were ordered from Nashville Products Company, at a cost of \$9.85 each for forty-two desks for the new school. (See Figure 8.) In August 1945, parents in Nolensville asked the county board of education to add another teacher for the Nolensville School. Mrs. Byrd became the third teacher and the minutes recorded that "The third teacher would be employed as long as the A.D.A. of the school was 70."<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Williamson County Archives, Nolensville School File, Franklin TN and *Nolensville Historical Society Journal Number 4*, 106

<sup>9</sup> Minutes of the Board of Education, 1945-46. August 18, 1945, minutes. scrapbook

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Miss Pauline MacArthur's first and second grade students were taught and ate at small tables in their classroom. In winter, grits or beans were sometimes kept warm on the top of coal stoves. During World War II the Nolensville School served as one of the Williamson County Draft Board registration locations. Teacher Miss Pauline McArthur was appointed and served as the registrar of local men.

The Nolensville Community Club was formed in early 1940s, during World War II. This Middle Tennessee Community Improvement Program was sponsored by the Lions Club and Farm Bureau for Williamson County and offered prize money for the community making the most improvements. In 1946 the Nolensville Club won a first place and placed seventeenth in the State. The Nolensville chapter met at the school and was ready to take on a community support project at war time and after.

At the end of the war "The Community Club paid \$150.00 for a war surplus building from the Classification Center, wrecked it and hauled it to the school."<sup>10</sup> The surplus decommissioned Army Air Force Classification Center building was located on Thompson Lane in Nashville, Tennessee. This building was dismantled and the building materials were moved to the Nolensville school location by members. Wood from the surplus building was used to frame the gymnasium. Other building materials, such as concrete block, brick, and windows were provided by the Williamson County School Board. (See Figure 7.)

The largest project ever undertaken by the community club was purchasing, wrecking, and hauling the war surplus building from the Classification Center on Thompson Lane, Nashville, Tennessee. Men from the community volunteered for the job and moved material to the school. The Williamson county School Board added it onto the school building as the gymnasium.<sup>11</sup>

On March 13, 1948, the Williamson County Board of Education granted Mr. Borrow and the Superintendent, the authority to employ an architect to coordinate construction and funding of the new gymnasium, bathrooms, and cafeteria using those materials.<sup>12</sup> Local craftsmen from Nolensville were hired for the construction.

A stage at the south of the gym was included during construction and used for school assemblies and plays that were popular with students and their families. The new additions were used not only by students but provided a larger indoor local meeting place for the Community Club, local celebrations, and other active organizations such as Lions Club (beginning in 1955). After the new indoor gymnasium was completed, the seventh and eighth grade boys and girls basketball teams could practice and host other county schools; adults and independent basketball teams also used the gym. The new lunchroom with adjacent kitchen served hot lunches made from scratch, prepared by mothers of students. It also provided kitchen facilities for preparing foods for sporting events, PTA fund raisers, and popular square dance gatherings. The new indoor bathrooms provided a welcomed modern convenience. The local community baseball teams moved their

<sup>10</sup> The Community Club," *Nolensville School Journal*, 1949-1950.

<sup>11</sup> "The Nolensville 4-H Club" article in possession of author.

<sup>12</sup> Williamson County Board of Education Minutes April 24, 1948 Williamson County Archives.

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playing field directly behind the school at this time. Both baseball and girls softball used the fields that are still in use continuing a strong community tradition thanks to the Community Club family's efforts long ago

On April 16, 1953, *The Review Appeal* highlighted the school in Nolensville by noting that "Nolensville has one of Finest County Schools." Prof. Errock Jordan was the principal (and a teacher) and there were four female teachers at the school. The article continued

The people of this community are proud of their new brick school building and its large campus where they have community basketball games each Sunday afternoon. This new building has four classrooms, two rest rooms, modern equipped cafeteria, and a large combination auditorium and gymnasium with a large stage.<sup>13</sup>

Enrollment was 125, and 110 students were served a balanced meal of meat, milk, vegetables and fruit for twenty cents by Margaret Hall and Ora Stephenson.

In 1966 the gymnasium was divided into four classrooms and two rest rooms were added to the gymnasium to accommodate new students when the school began to integrate. In 1976, Carrie Ozburn noted that while being employed as school secretary, that she was informed by school officials to prepare for a visit from First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson. The First Lady wanted to present the school with a set of encyclopedias in recognition of the Nolensville School's Integration program that was so successful.<sup>14</sup>

This plan was changed and instead the third and fourth grade students were taken to Columbia, Tennessee to receive the books with both President Lyndon B. Johnson and the First Lady attending the book presentation. The change in plans gave students the opportunity to see both the President and First Lady, who were there for the dedication ceremonies of Tennessee State Columbia College, Wednesday, March 15, 1967.<sup>15</sup> Lady Bird Johnson presented the first volumes of two sets of encyclopedias to the chosen student pair, Gary Pope and Ken Warren, and school Principle Raymond Robertson. President Johnson shook hands with the trio.

In 1972, a larger school was opened adjacent to the nominated property and the old school then became the first Nolensville Community Recreation Center. The first elected director was Jack Stephenson, who was a past Community Club member and assisted with the school's gym construction, as well as assisting to create youth and adult baseball leagues that utilized the school building and grounds.<sup>16</sup> The Williamson County Recreation Department organized classes and community event gatherings were held in the building. In the spring of 1984, Janice Keck, Director of Williamson County Library, approached the Friendly Neighbors Extension Homemakers Club of Nolensville about establishing a Library for Nolensville that would be sponsored by the club.<sup>17</sup> Members gladly agreed and quickly involved other organizations and local merchants to donate finances and physical labor to clean, paint, and prepare the former classroom that once

<sup>13</sup> "Nolensville has one of Finest County Schools" in *The Review Appeal*, April 16, 1953. Scrapbook.

<sup>14</sup> *Nolensville Historical Society Journal Number 4*, 107.

<sup>15</sup> "Nolensville School Given Encyclopedia Sets by First Lady" in *The Review Appeal*, Tuesday, March 22, 1967, State Library Archives, Nashville TN.

<sup>16</sup> Wilson, 308.

<sup>17</sup> Janice Bobo, Nolensville Library Scrapbook, April 19, 1988, 1.

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National Park Service

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served as the school library and office for school secretary Carrie Ozburn in the southwest section of the building.

Local residents were trained as library volunteers who provided services during the first year of operation. The Library opened July 8, 1985, operated entirely by volunteers.<sup>18</sup> In 1986 they assisted part time branch librarian Janice Bobo who became head librarian. Library services continued at that location until December 1995 when a larger library was built at 915 Oldham Drive. Nolensville School was rented by a local church until 2009 when local code concerns made it necessary to leave. Concerned citizens, former teachers and students, along with those who recall their family's personal involvement with the school's creation, hope to preserve this special building. Once again, community members went to Williamson County Government officials who agreed to lease the school to the membership of the Nolensville Historical Society. Members understand the historic value of the Rosenwald Plan school building and cultural importance to the town of Nolensville. The community and former students envision a restored building welcoming and providing a place for educational and community activities once again.

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<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

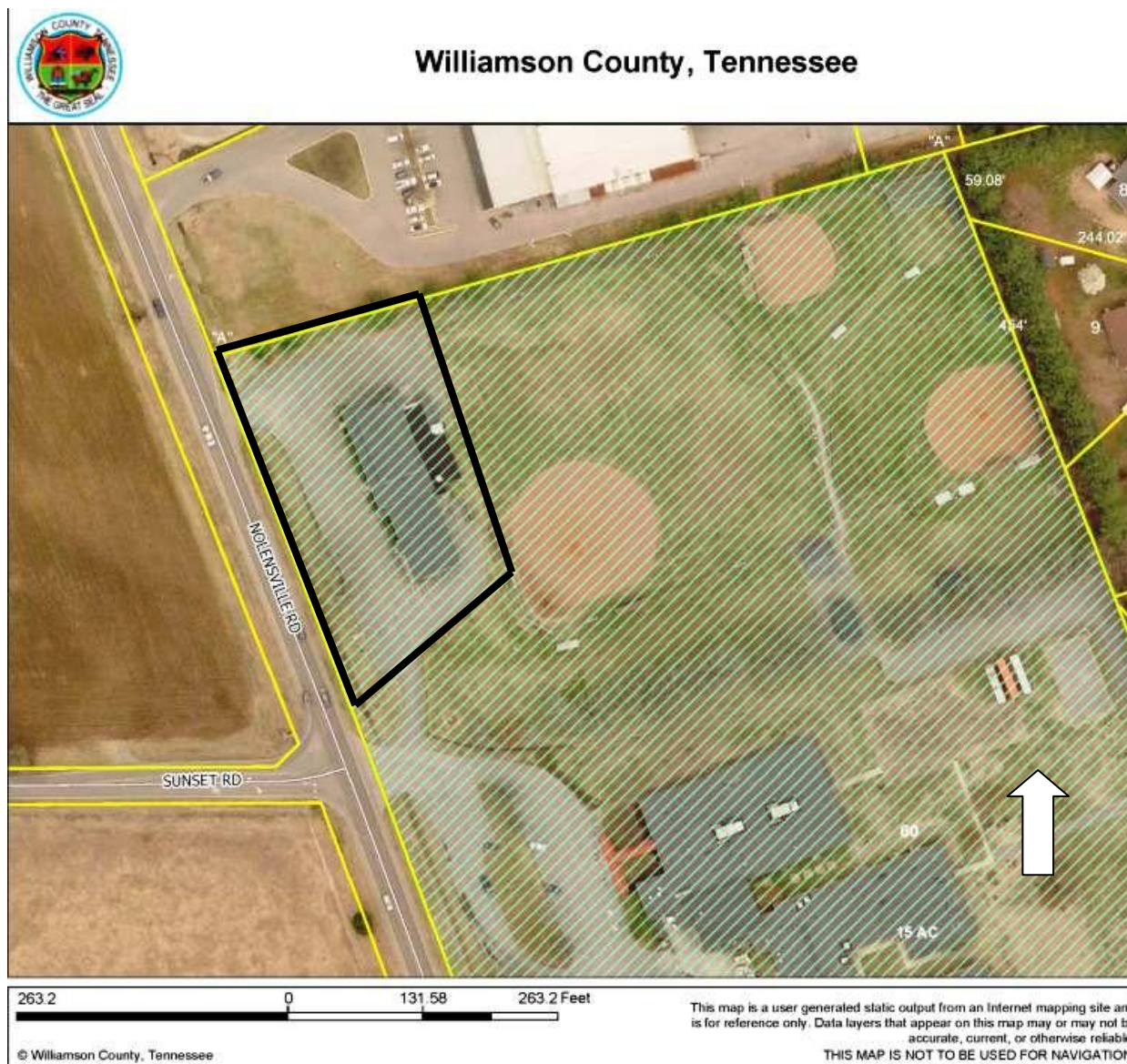
The boundary for the nominated property is part of parcel 60 on Williamson County tax map 56. It is an irregular parallelogram of approximately 1.6 acres that includes the historic school and gym. It excludes newer resources on the larger tax parcel. The boundary includes property historically associated with the Nolensville School and is the land today associated with the community center.

Beginning at point A the boundary moves easterly approximately 196 feet; thence southerly approximately 263 feet; thence southwest approximately 196 feet; thence northerly approximately 395 feet to the point of the beginning. See map.

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Section number      photos      Page     16     Nolensville School  
Williamson County Tennessee

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos by: Robert Haines  
Date of Photographs: April 2011  
Negatives/digital images Tennessee Historical Commission

1 of 35	Southwest façade facing east	19 of 35	Room D facing east
2 of 35	Northwest façade facing east	20 of 35	Room D facing northeast
3 of 35	North elevations facing south	21 of 35	Room E facing west
4 of 35	Northeast elevations facing west	22 of 35	Hall 21 facing east
5 of 35	Southeast elevations facing west	23 of 35	Room 1 facing northwest
6 of 35	South elevations facing north	24 of 35	Room 1 facing southwest
7 of 35	Room A facing north	25 of 35	Room 2 facing south
8 of 35	Room A facing south	26 of 35	Room 3 facing north
9 of 35	Room B facing north	27 of 35	Room 4 facing southeast
10 of 35	Room B facing east	28 of 35	Room 5 facing southeast
11 of 35	Room B facing south	29 of 35	Room 6 facing west
12 of 35	Entrance H facing west	30 of 35	Room 8 facing north
13 of 35	Hall F facing southeast	31 of 35	Room 9 facing northeast
14 of 35	Hall F facing north	32 of 35	Room 17 facing northeast
15 of 35	Room C facing southeast	33 of 35	Room 17 facing north
16 of 35	Room C facing northwest	34 of 35	Room 17 facing south
17 of 35	Room C facing east	35 of 35	Room 18 facing south
18 of 35	Room D facing southwest		

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rm design studio  
323 Nashville  
room 101 37205  
615-305-2225  
rmstudio@gmail.com

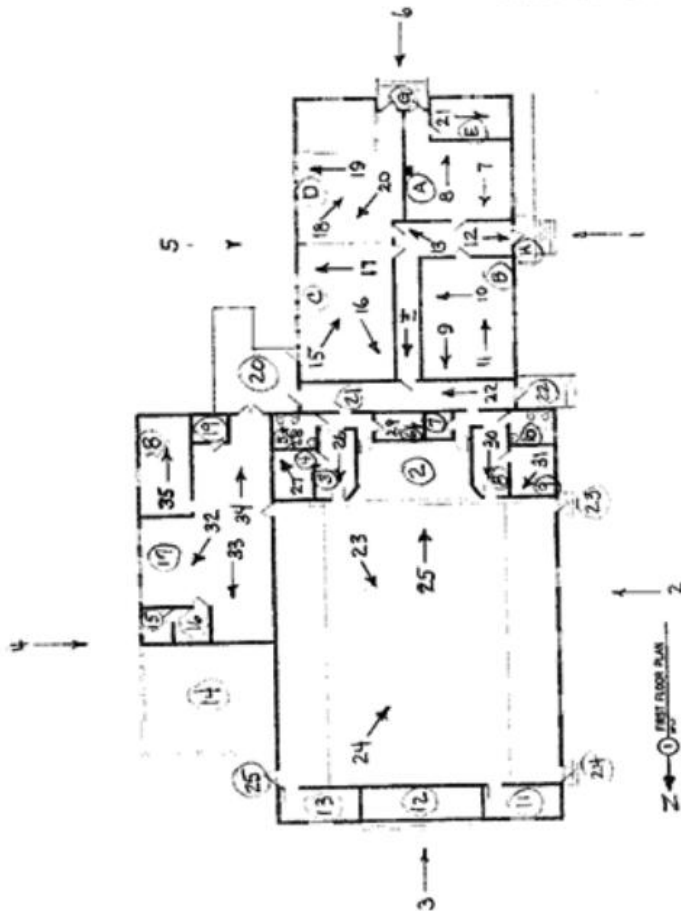
record print

Nolensville  
school

A1

record number  
May 16, 2010

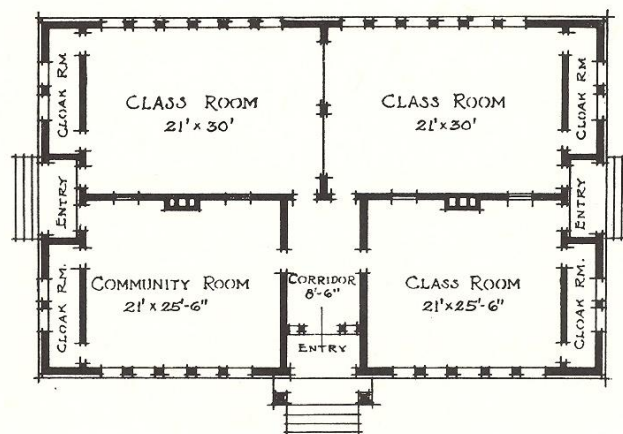
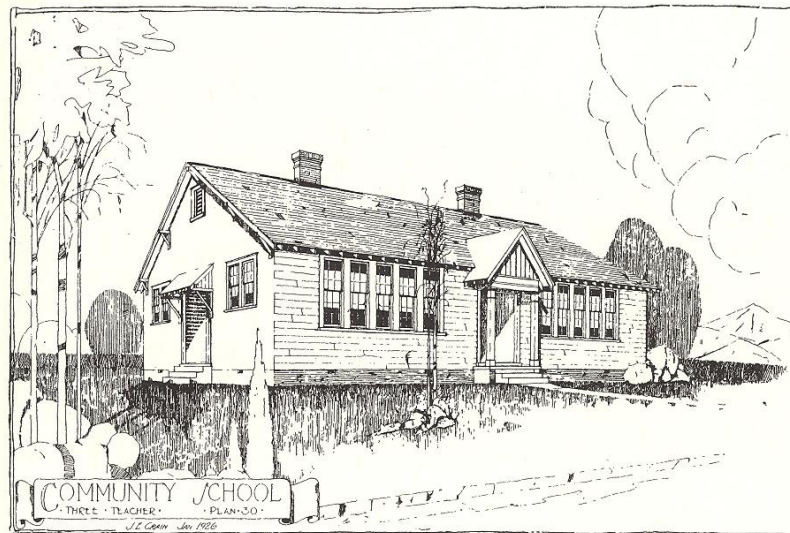
PHOTO KEY



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National Park Service

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FLOOR PLAN NO. 30  
THREE TEACHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
TO FACE EAST OR WEST ONLY

Figure 23. Community School Plan 30, to face east or west. Simple rectangular structures like these easily accommodated classroom additions, for which matching grants were also available. (*Community School Plans*, rev. ed., 1928)

Figure 1. From *The Rosenwald School of the American South*.



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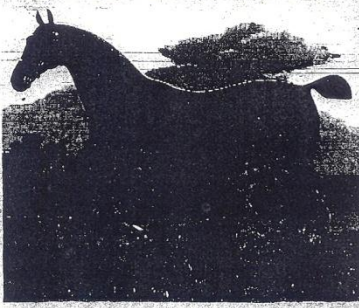
Section number 19 figures 19 Page 19 Nolensville School  
Williamson County Tennessee

The Review-Appeal, Franklin, Tennessee 123 Years Service to Williamson County

# Nolensville

THIRD ANNUAL

# Horse Show



SPONSORED BY NOLENSVILLE P. T. A.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1936**  
**AT 7:30 P. M. NEW SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Number of Prizes Classes and			
CLASS NO. 1—PONIES (under 54 inches) RIDERS UNDER 12 YEARS	\$3.00	\$2.00	.50
CLASS NO. 2—WALKING HORSES (under 4 years)	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.00
CLASS NO. 3—COLT CLASS (under 2 years)	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
CLASS NO. 4—GAITED PONIES (58 inches and under)	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
CLASS NO. 5—MODEL CLASS (any age under halter)	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00
CLASS NO. 6—WALKING PONIES (58 inches and under)	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
CLASS NO. 7—THREE GAITED MARE, GELDING OR STALLION (any age)	Trophy	\$5.00	\$3.00
CLASS NO. 8—WALKING MARE (any age)	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$3.00
CLASS NO. 9—ROADSTER CLASS	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$3.00
CLASS NO. 10—WALKING HORSE, GELDING OR STALLION	Trophy	\$5.00	\$3.00
CLASS NO. 11—FIVE GAITED MARE, GELDING OR STALLION	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$3.00
CLASS NO. 12—WALKING HORSE SWEEPSTAKE	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$3.00
Trophy for the highest ranking horse in this class with a natural tail, given by J. M. Dickerson, Travelers Rest Farm.			
CLASS NO. 13—JUMPING CLASS	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$3.00

**No Entrance Fee For Livestock**  
**Ring Will Be Well Lighted**  
**Competent Judges, Loud Speakers, Music**  
**NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENTS**  
**BARBECUE HAMBURGERS ICE CREAM DRINKS**  
WILL BE SOLD BY P.T. A. FOR BENEFIT OF SCHOOL

ENTRIES FOR NAMES IN PROGRAM MUST BE ENTERED BY JUNE 15 TO MISS ELISIE MAI PUCKETT SECRETARY,  
PHONE 56.

Admission 10c 20c      Seats 15c      Parking 15c  
NEWT. McCord, Mgr      A. A. HALL, Asst. Mgr.

Figure 2. Third Annual horse show on the school grounds.

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National Park Service

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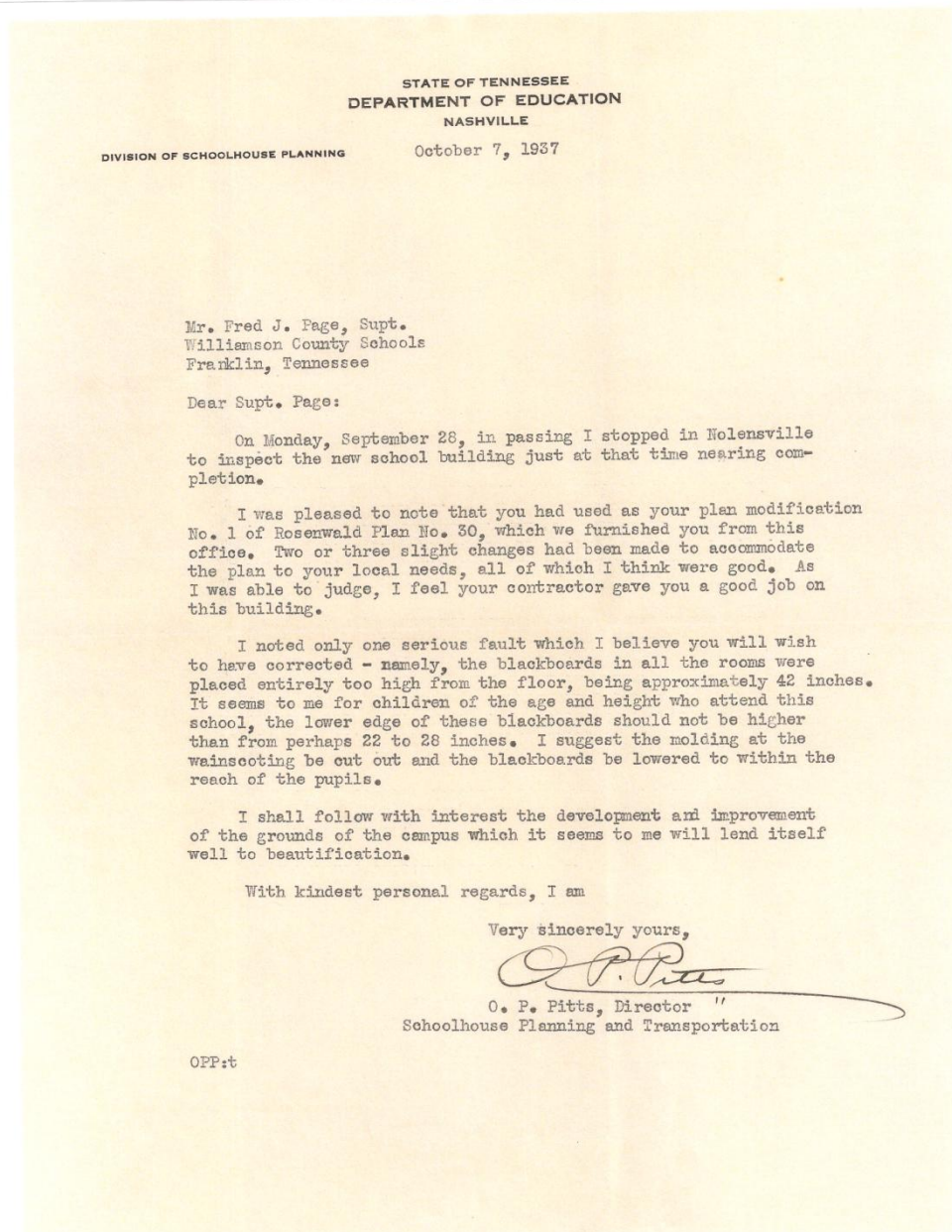


Figure 3. Letter from O.P. Pitts to Fred J. Page noting the adaptation of a Rosenwald plan school.



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PHONE 6-5668 NASHVILLE, TENN. Oct. 6, 1937 19

Mr. Fred J. Page,  
County Supt.  
Franklin, Tenn.

BOUGHT OF

ATWATER KENT  
PHILCO  
RADIOS

**H. J. Grimes Company**  
INCORPORATED  
DRY-GOODS, CARPETS AND  
READY-TO-WEAR

LINOLEUM  
WINDOW SHADES  
SHADE ROLLERS  
SHADE CLOTH  
LACE CURTAINS  
SIGN CLOTH

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS 215 SOUTH SIDE PUBLIC SQUARE

30	Shades	33	00
----	--------	----	----

For School at Nolensville

By phone Mrs. Turner

H. J. GRIMES & CO., Inc.  
OCT 13 1937  
Per \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose warrants for the two accounts.  
Money in Franklin banks to pay them.  
Please receipt and return this statement.

Yours,  
*F. J. Page*  
F. J. Page, County Supt.

Figure 4. Invoice for tents used before school was completed.



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Thursday Morning, September 9, 1937. THE NASHVILLE

## Nolensville Youngsters Find Tent School Is Exciting, Fun, As New \$12,000 Structure Is Delayed for Several Weeks

### 85 People, Four Teachers Work in Makeshift Classrooms

By HELEN DAHNKE

There's something exciting about a tent—whether you pitch it by the creek and spend the night in it, or eat hamburgers under it at the county fair, or go to the school in it.

Maybe that's the reason that there's such a feeling of suppressed excitement and good fun among the 85 pupils and four teachers of the Nolensville school in Williamson County these days. For the second week, pending completion of the new \$12,000 brick school building on the Nolensville highway, pupils are attending school in a rented tent which measures 35 by 50 feet.

#### BUILDING DELAYED

William Powers of Denver, Tenn., arrived a week ago last Monday to open the school as its new principal. Funds and materials had been delayed, it was told, and as a result the new brick building which is to be modern in every respect would not be ready for two weeks. Meantime, the old frame building used last year had been sold and was being used by its new owner to store grains and farm implements.

"Why not rent a tent and place it in the big five-acre field back of the new school?" the resourceful teachers of Powers' staff asked. The local school board complied.

#### ORANGE CRATE SEATS

And there they are sitting under their tent. Miss Pauline McArthur, who teaches the four primary classes, has about one-fourth the tent somewhat fenced off with chairs and her table. There her youngsters, seated in a row of green-painted kindergarten chairs which they themselves made last year from orange crates, recite their lessons. In another back corner of the tent, Miss Calla Lilly Owen teaches intermediate classes reading, writing and arithmetic.

In another corner, toward the front, with a small folding blackboard to help him, Dudley Wood delves into the mysteries of syntax and parsing with a group of boys. Up front, Powers, in complete smiling command of his makeshift schoolroom, holds another class.

#### WORK IS HALTED

Work is at a standstill on the new building a 100 yards away. For material which was ordered for its completion has not been received.

"We may be here two more weeks," said Powers yesterday. But no one seems distressed about the arrangements. With the weather warm the tent is much more comfortable.

The wind whips through the school scattering papers, overhead the pupils may hear a big passenger plane as it streaks south as regular as the clock, a quarter of a mile away a tractor is busy at fall plowing, a big green worm crawls down one of the center poles and directs attention from books for a few minutes. A pony which is driven to school by one of the pupils neighs from its hitching post nearby and everyone jumps.

Yes, say the children of Nolensville, there's fun and excitement going to school in tent.



"T-E-N-T" spells a second-grader in the class of Miss Pauline McArthur, primary teacher in the Nolensville tent school. Eighty-five children of the community have been attending classes under canvas while the new building is finished.



Nolensville's younger generation is playing pioneer these days in a tent, while completion of the community's new \$12,000 brick school building is delayed. Lack of supplies is holding up the building in the foreground, while 85 children recite in the tent in the background.

Figure 5. Newspaper article showing unfinished school and tent school.



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Williamson County TennesseePRINCIPALS' ANNUAL REPORT  
(To be filled by Principals of Schools having two or more Teachers)

Teacher Reporting Dudley Wood Type School 4 Teachers  
1, 2, or 3-or-more Teacher  
For Grades 1st - 8th of Nolensville School  
Williamson County Nolensville Post Office  
For the term beginning Aug. 30, 1937 and ending May 13, 1938

## RECORD OF PROMOTION AND RETARDATION AT END OF YEAR

GRADE	Total Enrolled			No. Dropped From Rolls			No. Promoted To Next Grade			No. Failing who have been in grade one year			No. Failing who have been in grade two years			No. Failing who have been in grade over two years			Total Failures		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
1 Grade	3	2	5	1	0	1	2	2	4	0	0	0							0	0	0
2 Grade	3	5	8	0	0	0	3	5	8	0	0	0							0	0	0
3 Grade	9	6	15	1	2	3	6	4	10	2	0	2							2	0	2
4 Grade	5	8	13	1	0	1	4	7	11	0	1	1							0	1	1
5 Grade	2	4	7	1	0	1	1	3	4	0	1	1	1	0	1				1	1	2
6 Grade	7	7	14				6	7	13	1	0	1							1	0	1
7 Grade	2	2	8	0	1	1	5	1	6	1	0	1							1	0	1
8 Grade	7	1	8	1	0	1	6	1	7												
TOTAL	43	35	78	5	3	8	33	30	63	4	2	6	1	0	1				5	2	7

	Boys	Girls	Total
1 Total Enrollment (All pupils on roll)	43	35	78
2 Previously enrolled elsewhere this year in State	2	2	5
3 Net Enrollment (1 minus 2)	40	33	73
4 Total number days Present	6289	5177	11466

	Boys	Girls	Total
5 Length of School Term in Days (Include Holidays)			180
6 Number of Days Actually Taught (Exclude Holidays)			173
7 Average Daily Attendance	36.35	31.12	66.27
8 Total Number of Days Transported			
9 Average Daily Attendance of Transported (8 divided by 6)			

Figure 6. 1938 Annual report.

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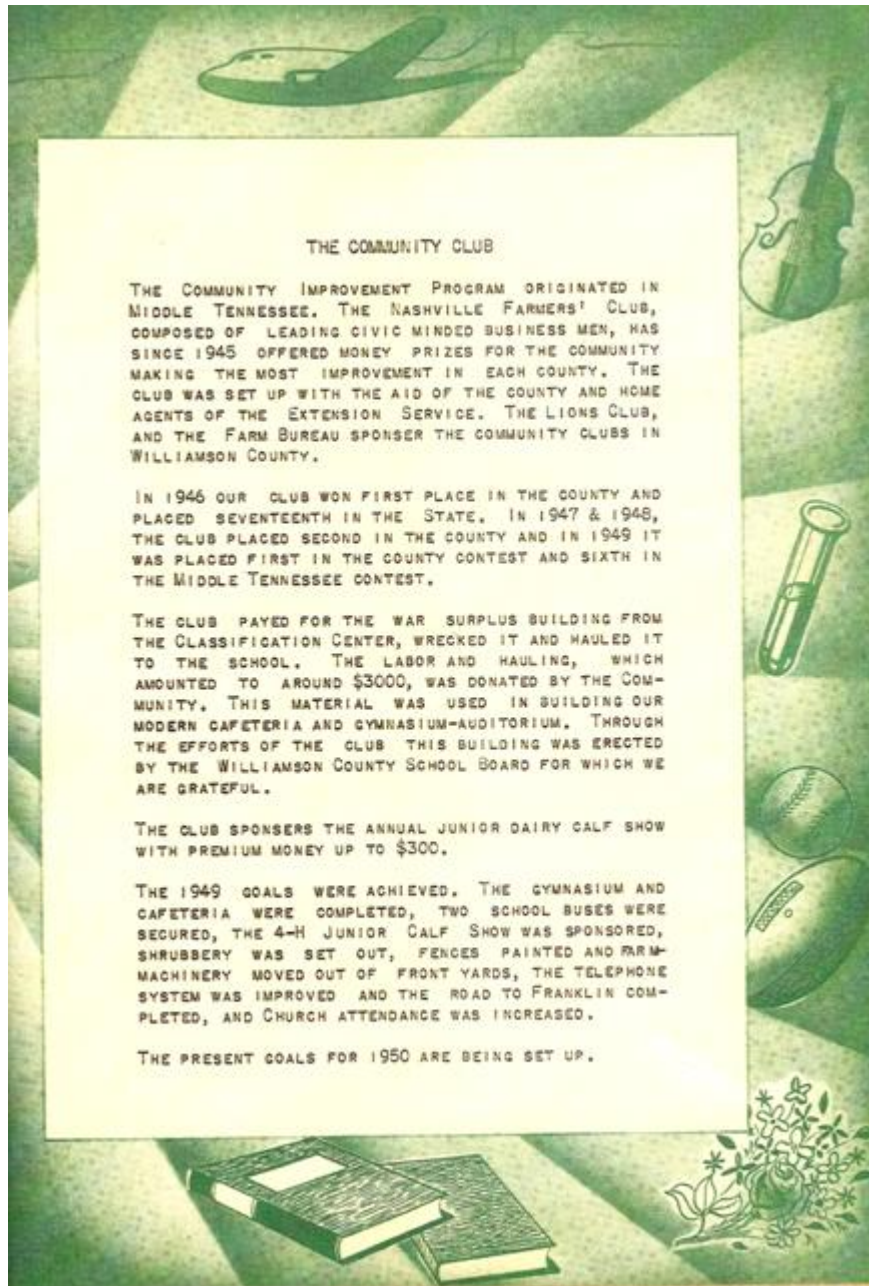


Figure 7. Community Club document showing how they collected WWII building material.

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National Park Service

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PHONE 475 P. O. BOX 387

FRANKLIN, TENN., Nov. 1 1937

M Williamson Co. School Board  
by F. Page, Nolensville School  
IN ACCOUNT WITH  
**T. H. HUGHES**  
CONTRACTOR  
WE CARRY AT ALL TIMES A COMPLETE LINE OF BUILDING  
MATERIAL AT REASONABLE PRICES.

ESTIMATES FURNISHED.  
CONSULTATION FREE. ACCOUNTS DUE FIRST OF EACH MONTH. IF NOT  
PAID, LEGAL INTEREST WILL BE COLLECTED.

Oct 14	5 short benches by Jim Akin	10 75
25	4 Teacher + 1 Lib. tables	20 00
	6 Des 1/8 x 10 "6" 1 C. pine	2 70
	5 " " X 10 "7" 1 C. "	2 05
	5 " " X 8 "8" 1 C. "	1 75
	1 " " X 4-6 1 C. "	28
	200 lin. ft 1/8 x 2	2 00
	2 Des. 2 x 2-10	25
	1 - 4 " hinge hump	20
	1 qt. dark oak oil stain	75
	del. on above + 3 coals + 34 chairs (16 large + 18 small)	2 50
	to school	15 00
	7 short benches not Delivered	15 00
		<u>\$57 05</u>

11 - 11 - 37  
Pd. by Ed. Starke 5/2  
T. H. Hughes

7 short Benches on hand

Figure 8. Receipt for desks from Nashville Products Company.